Peter Burkholder

You and your platform

- Mission / Concept
- Team / Skills
  - UX, Engineers, DataSci, ...
- Platform:
  - Build
  - Test
  - Run
- How to procure, build, secure, maintain?

Iván García, MX, 2013 World Diving Championships, Barcelona - Rob Nunn

Platform

- **Stack**: WebServer, AppServer, Database, Cache, Index
- **Environments**: (Local), Dev, Test, Stage, Prod
- **User management**: Admin, Devs, Auditors
- **Operations**: Patch, Logs, CDN, Scanning, Availability

All of this is **commodity**

Acquire: weeks // **Running**: hours
  // **Build**: months // **Authorize**: weeks

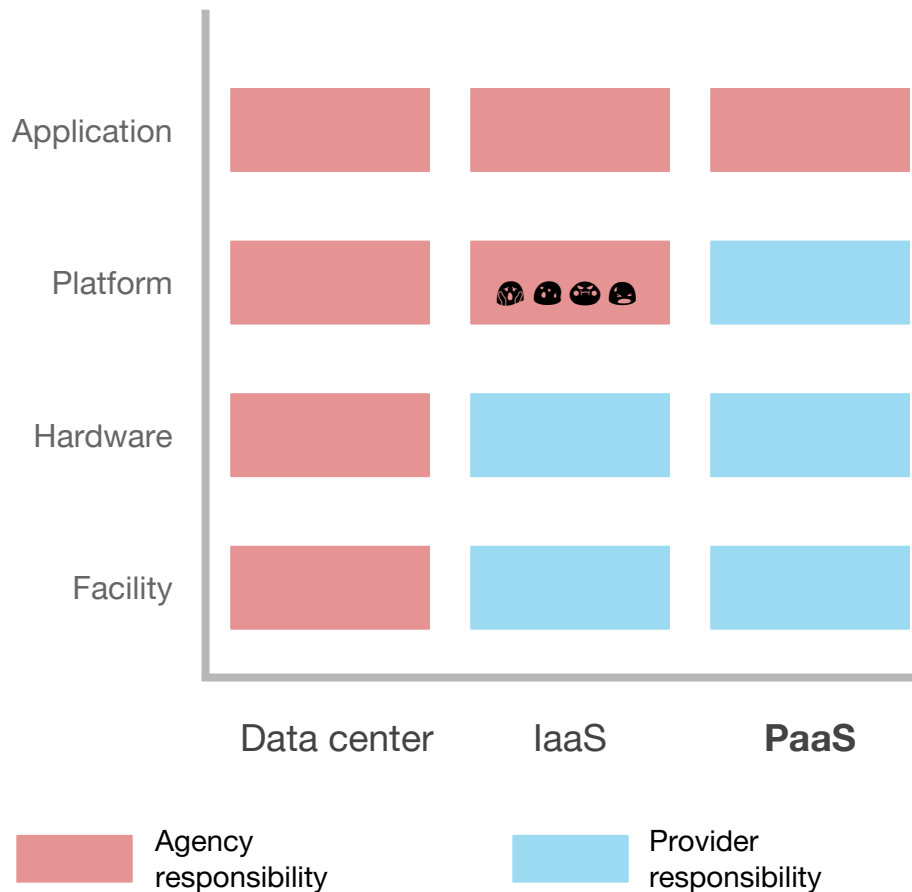**Pre-built environment ready for deploying an application**

Developers can focus on mission needs

Common technology resources are managed by an expert operations team

- Operating system
- Databases
- Audit trails
- Authentication
- Authorization
- Load balancing
- Scaling
- Vulnerability scans
- Programming languages
- Automated updates

Reduce what you manage that's common across the government.

Platform as a Service

	Data center	IaaS	**PaaS**
Application	Agency	Agency	Agency
Platform	Agency	Agency	Provider
Hardware	Agency	Provider	Provider
Facility	Agency	Provider	Provider

Agency responsibility

Provider responsibility

How we do this

cloud.gov is a **Platform as a Service** (PaaS).

It is based on **open source** Cloud Foundry and built on AWS GovCloud.

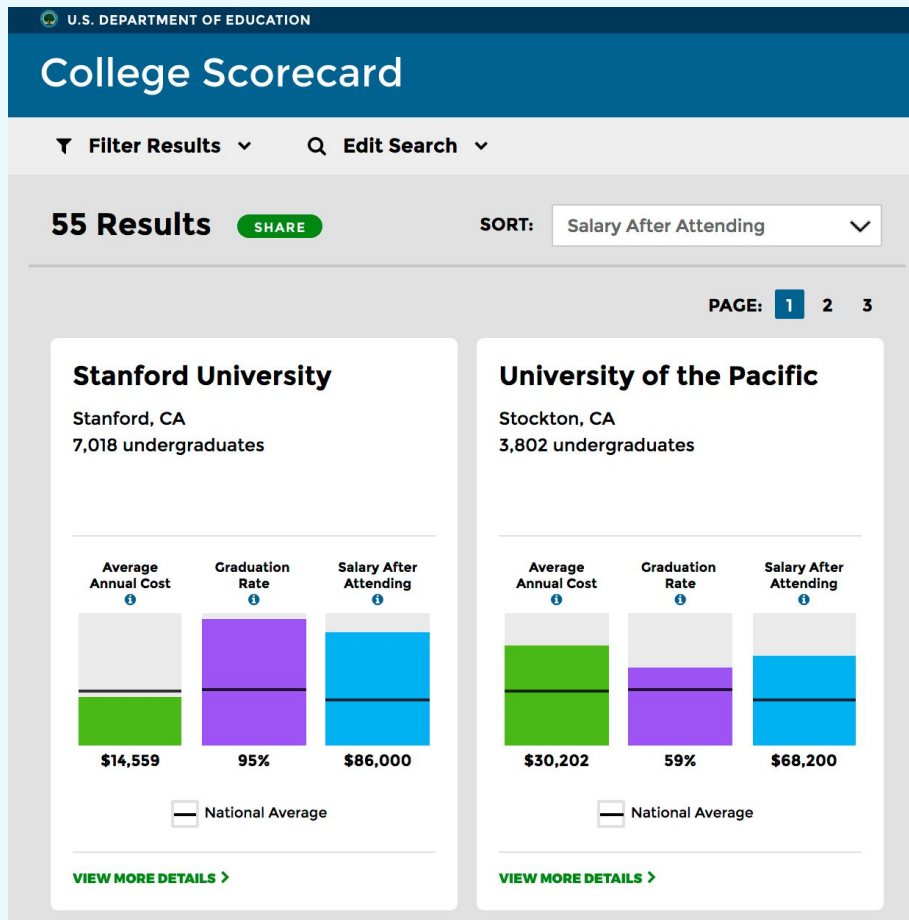It has baked-in **federal security compliance**.

How it works

Your team brings **custom or COTS software**.

They use **self-service tools to configure services** for databases, storage, CDN, etc.

They **deploy** the application.

Self-service

Create an environment:
```
cf create-space staging
```

Create a database:
```
cf create-service aws-rds medium-oracle-se2 forest-data
```
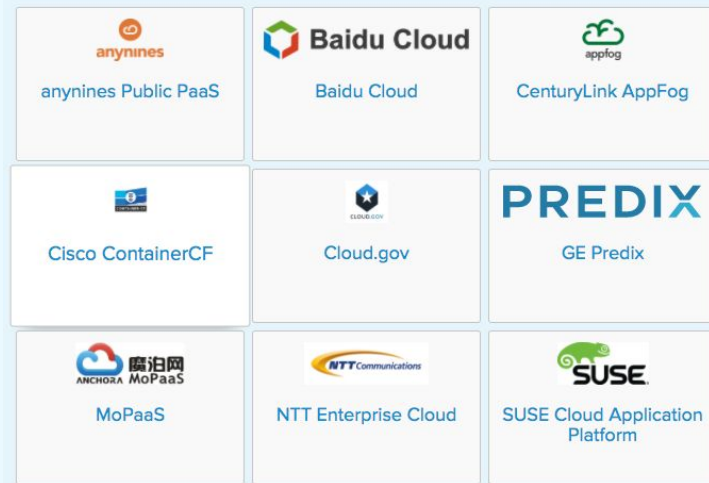
Deploy your application:
```
cf push tree-app
```

Scale your application:
```
cf scale tree-app -i 2
```

Cloud Foundry

- **Actively developed and updated**
  - Open source Platform as Service with many active contributors
- **Large community**
  - Thriving ecosystem with 400+ system integrators and consultants
- **Reduces vendor lock-in**
  - Multiple industry installations
  - Code supports multiple IaaS providers

Reducing vendor lock-in

Applications that work with cloud.gov **also work with industry Cloud Foundry providers.**

Expanding vendor choice

Third-party contractors can bid on how they build software, as most of the **operational concerns** have been offloaded.

Authorizations

FedRAMP JAB P-ATO Moderate

DISA DoD P-ATO Impact Level 2

You review authorizations, but **only assess your own application.**

FedRAMP

DISA

Current customers

GSA sampling

- FAS: calc.gsa.gov
- OGP: pulse.cio.gov
- OPP: analytics.usa.gov
- TTS: Federalist
- FEDSIM Express (pre-production)
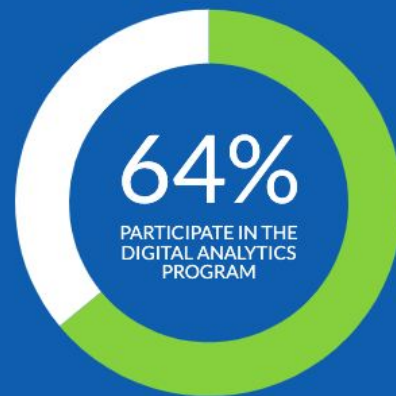- Two more at OGP (pre-production)
- CTO office (prototyping)

Where to?

- Technical Demo
- Case Studies
- Running on cloud.gov
  - E.g languages, services
- Compliance
- Packages
  - prototyping/Fisma low, etc

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Demo: launch a Java app, attach DB

Case Studies

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GSA 18F

Federal Election Commission (fec.gov)

FEC spent $1.4 million annually on their data center

With cloud.gov + AWS, initial estimates show **$1.2 million in savings annually**
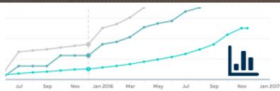
Prototyping packages

- FDIC
  - Adopting Agile/DevOps more broadly
- FBI Crime Data Explorer
  - FBI Crime Data Explorer visualizes crime trends, offers bulk datasets, and an open API. Python web app with ~1Tb RDS PostgreSQL databases.
- NOAA

Federalist

- Running a static website in the government to inform the public can be extraordinarily difficult
- Federalist
  - makes it easy for teams to publish/update
  - enables feds to focus on content
- Examples:
  - DOI Revenue Data
  - Plainlanguage.gov
  - FedRAMP
  - 116 others ...

https://federalist.18f.gov/

Legend:
- Build Process
- Federalist Operations
- General Processes

Amazon Web Services IaaS

AWS E/W Region
- SQS

Webhook initiates build process, which is acknowledged with error or 200 response

AWS GovCloud Region

cloud.gov

federalist (core app)

(Postgres database)
federalist-database

GitHub

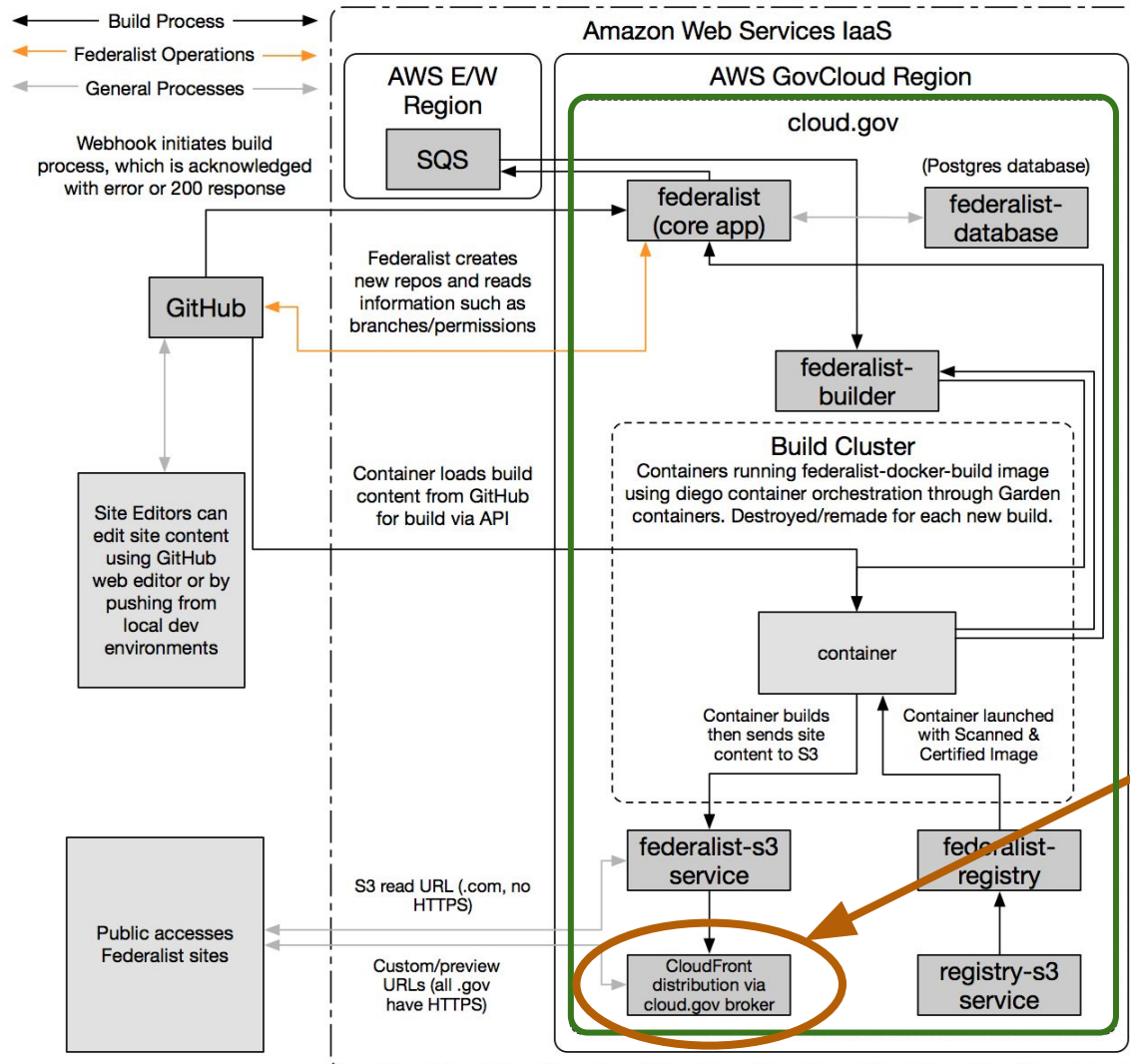Federalist creates new repos and reads information such as branches/permissions

federalist-builder

Container loads build content from GitHub for build via API

Build Cluster
Containers running federalist-docker-build image using diego container orchestration through Garden containers. Destroyed/remade for each new build.

Site Editors can edit site content using GitHub web editor or by pushing from local dev environments

container

Container builds then sends site content to S3

Container launched with Scanned & Certified Image

Public accesses Federalist sites

S3 read URL (.com, no HTTPS)

federalist-s3 service

federalist-registry

Custom/preview URLs (all .gov have HTTPS)

CloudFront distribution via cloud.gov broker

registry-s3 service

Federalist leverages these cloud.gov managed tools:

- Webapp
- Some utility apps
- RDS database
- Proxy app
- A set of worker containers
- Two s3 services
- Many, many CDN services

One admin command required to launch a new site on Federalist:

```
cf
create-service
cdn-route
```

Customer then CNAME's DNS to the cloud.gov-brokered cloudfront route and HTTPS is automatically set up by the CDN broker

Running on cloud.gov

CLOUD.GOV

GSA 18F

Well-suited for cloud.gov

- ❑ **Modern web applications.** Built in the last 5-7 years

- ❑ **Linux.** Runs on a *nix operating system

.Net Core

Java

Go

Ruby

Node.js

Python

PHP

Drupal

WordPress

Rails

Django

PostgreSQL

Oracle

MySQL

Built-in services

Relational databases (RDS)   PostgreSQL, MySQL, Oracle

Storage (S3)   Private or public data buckets

Custom domain   Built-in HTTPS and Content Delivery Network

Redis   In-memory data structure store

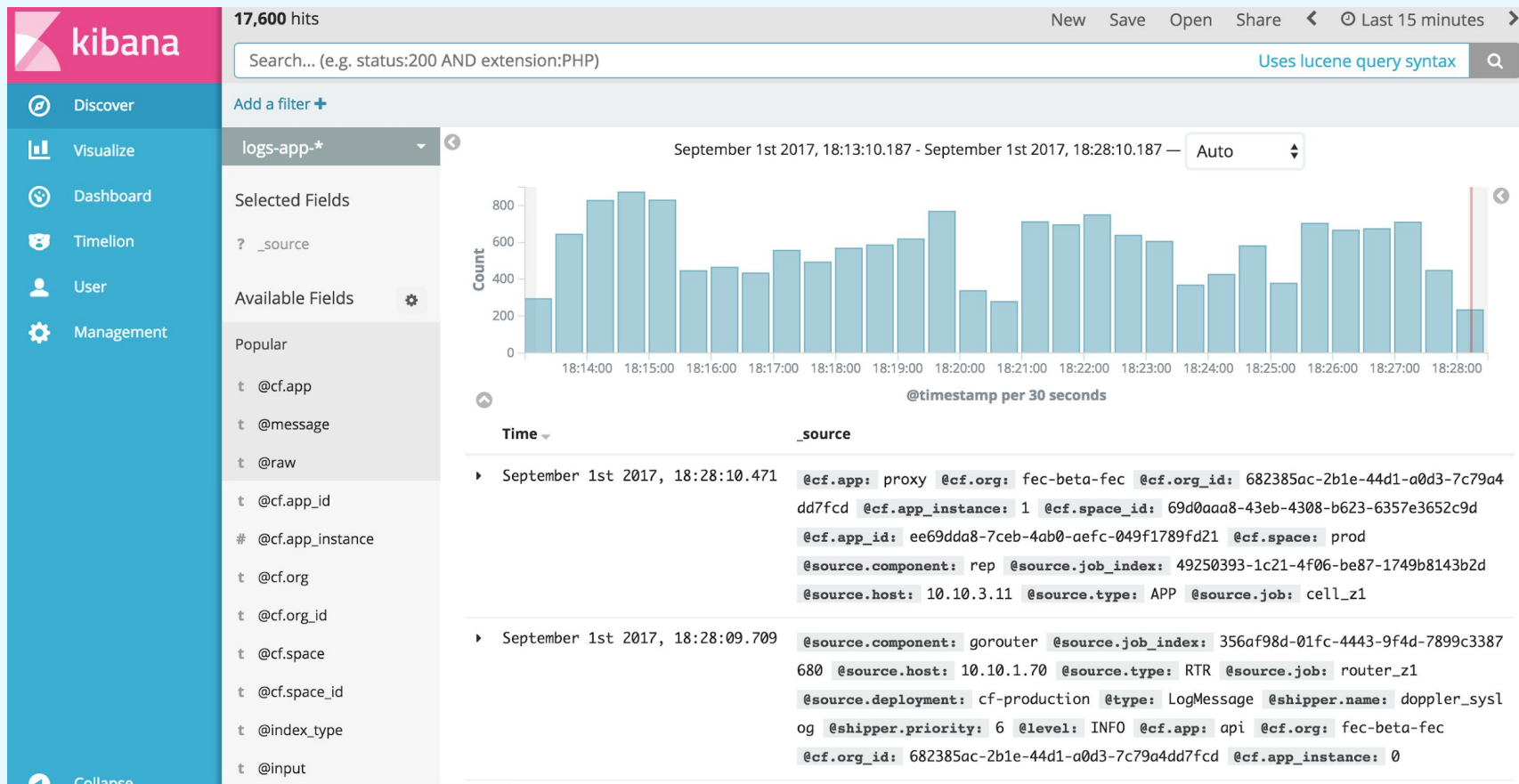**Elasticsearch**   Full-text search engine

Service accounts   For continuous deployment and auditing

Identity provider   Reuse cloud.gov authentication in your apps

Built-in logging, or send logs to your own service

12 factor app methodology - ideal for green-field

1 One codebase in version control, many deploys

2 Explicitly declare and isolate dependencies

3 Store config in the environment

4 Treat backing services as attached resources

5 Strictly separate build and run stages

6 Execute the app as stateless processes

7 Export services via port binding

8 Scale out via the process model

9 Maximize robustness with fast startup and graceful shutdown

10 Keep dev, staging, and prod as similar as possible

11 Treat logs as event streams

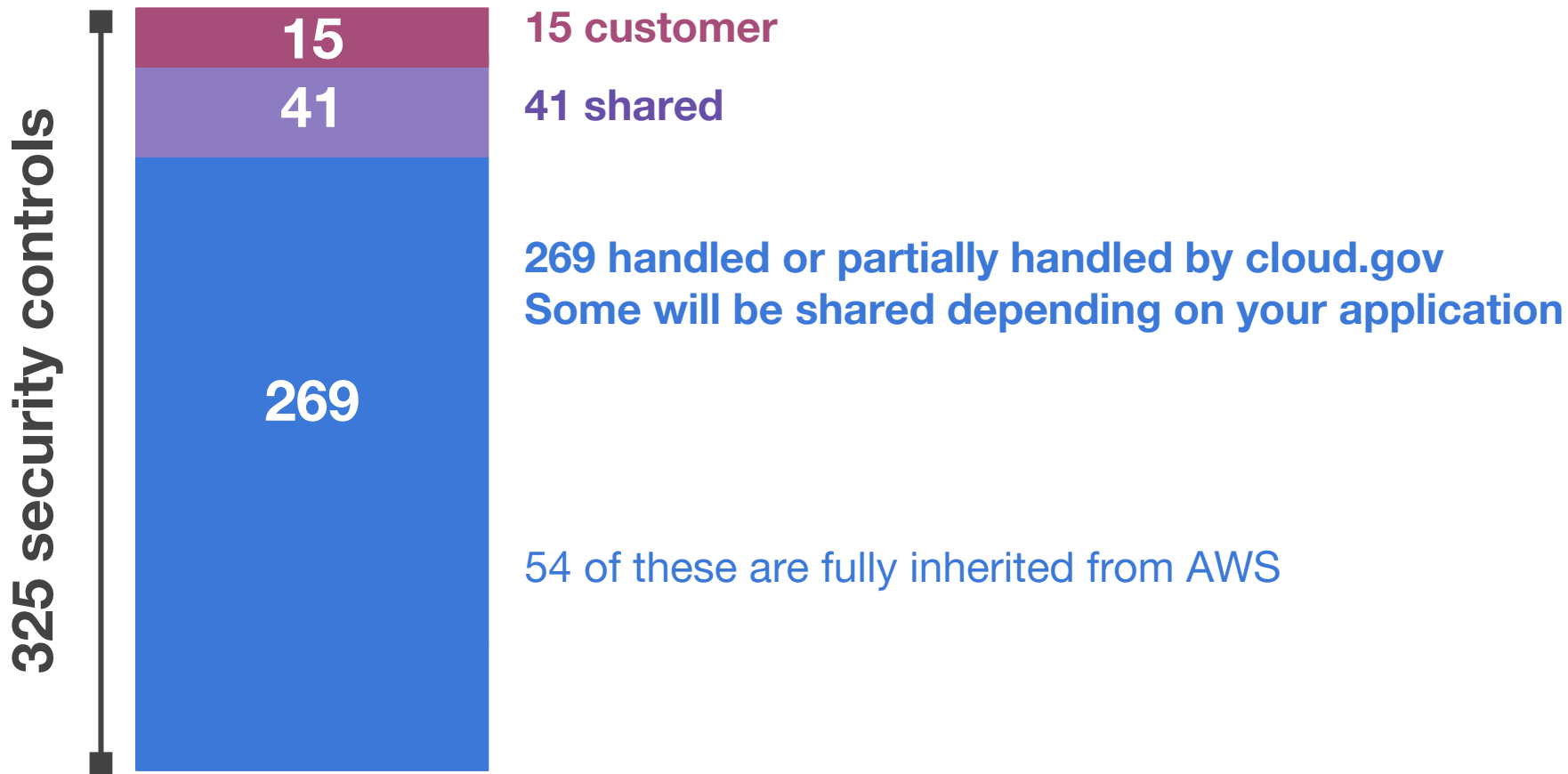**12** Run admin tasks as one-off processes

How cloud.gov reduces risk

Simplicity reduces mistakes. Plain-language configuration makes it harder to make mistakes.

cloud.gov implements the right defaults to reduce risk. Such as HTTPS and encryption at rest.

Reduce shadow IT. cloud.gov provides a modern self-service environment, so teams are less likely to use unapproved cloud infrastructure.

Many controls are handled by cloud.gov

325 security controls

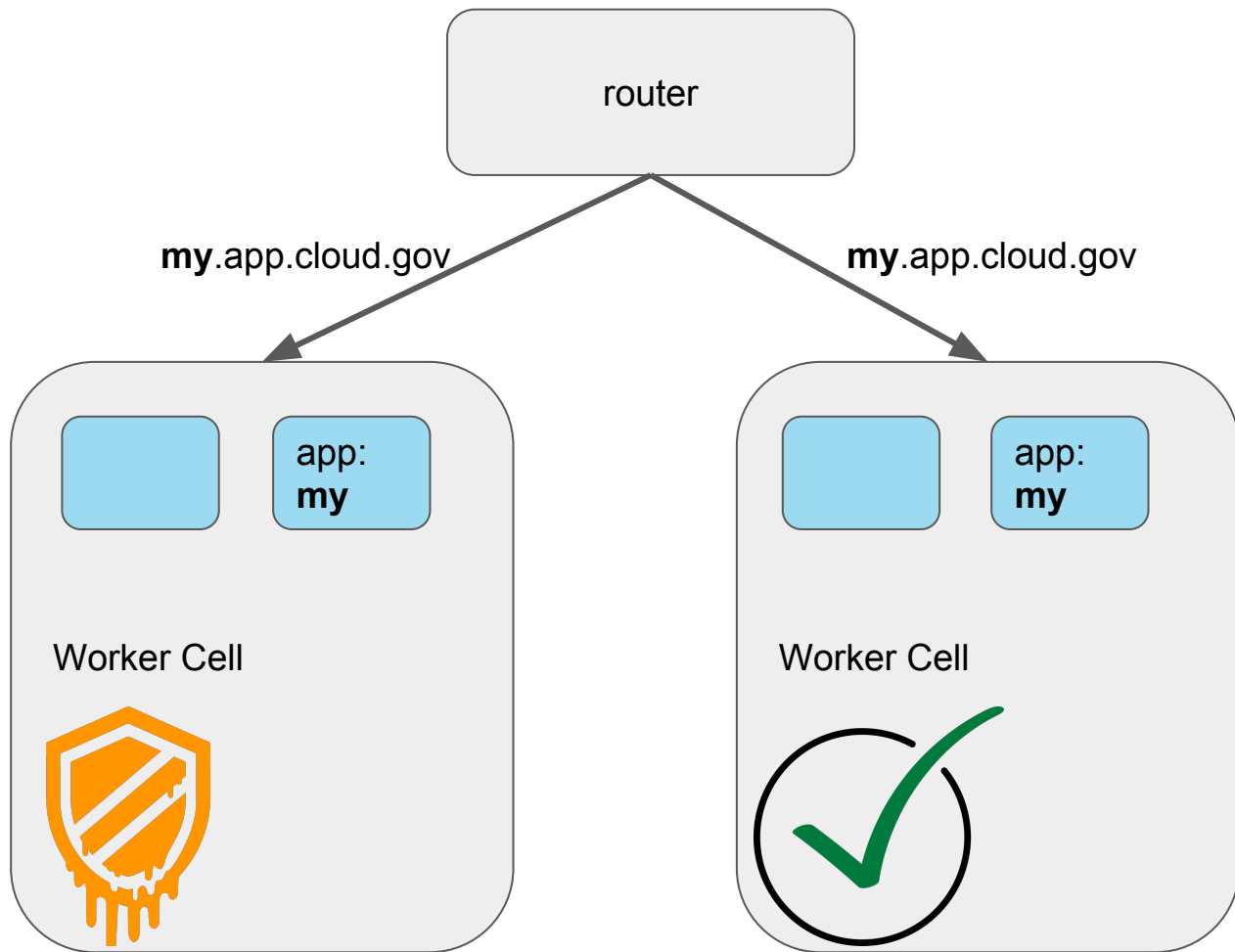|	
15	**15 customer**
41	**41 shared**
269	**269 handled or partially handled by cloud.gov** **Some will be shared depending on your application** 54 of these are fully inherited from AWS

How we do security

- FedRAMP Joint Authorization Board Moderate P-ATO
  - Full, verified implementation of Moderate NIST 800-53 controls
  - **Annual third-party independent audit** of controls and penetration test
  - FedRAMP Continuous Monitoring

- Secure physical infrastructure
  - AWS GovCloud US (FedRAMP JAB High P-ATO)

- GSA operational maturity
  - Position of Public Trust background checks

How we do security

- Architecture that isolates each customer system

- Fast, automated platform patching
  - Infrastructure as code (everything in configuration files)
  - Version control of all code and configuration
  - Continuous integration and continuous deployment
  - **Full deployment of upstream CVE patches in 12-24 hours**
  - We deploy updates several times a week

- We update without downtime or maintenance windows
  - Customer applications automatically restart, without downtime

Packages / Pricing

Pricing

Annual access fee per system

Package	Price
Prototyping	$15,000
FISMA Low	$20,000
FISMA Moderate	$90,000

Includes:
- Basic support
- Unlimited user roles and app instances
- Development, staging, and production environments
- Most services

+

Resource use cost

Calculated based on the amount of memory (RAM) that you reserve for use by your code running in your apps.

Median is $5000 a year for current customers.

+

Services

Some services, such as especially large database instances, may incur extra costs.

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Thank you